GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:500
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2006
DISCOVERY BY ONGC AND OIL
Rijiju Shri Kiren;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) have largely failed to discover new oils despite holding significant acreages;

(b) if so, whether any concrete steps have been taken to intensify the drilling activities by ONGC and OIL particularly in the North-Eastern States;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

(d) the performance record of ONGC and OIL in comparison to other exploration and production companies with regard to hydro carbon discoveries;

(e) whether the Government is taking any steps to restrict the public sector oil companies to their present holdings so that they can concentrate in increasing the productivity from their existing holdings; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.500 BY SHRI KIREN RIJIJU TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MAY, 2006 REGARDING DISCOVERY BY ONGC AND OIL.

(a) In 2005-06, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) have made 10 oil & gas discoveries. Out of 10 discoveries, 7 gas discoveries are in the onland & offshore areas of Krishna Godavari Basin, 2 oil discoveries are in Mumbai offshore and one oil discovery is in Assam. Oil India Limited (OIL) have made 5 oil & gas discoveries in Assam during the year.

As on 1.4.2006, ONGC have carried out 9,27,129 Kilometre of 2D seismic survey, 1,01,046 Sq. Km. of 3D seismic survey and drilled 4,977 exploratory wells in its operational areas. As a result of theses exploratory efforts, ONGC have since their inception established 6,252 Million Metric Tonne of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE) of in-place oil and gas reserves.

As on 1.4.2006, OIL have carried out 65,358 Kilometre of 2D seismic survey, 6,938 Sq. Km. of 3D seismic survey and drilled 343 exploratory wells in its operational areas. As a result of theses exploratory efforts, OIL have similarly established 939 MMTOE of in-place oil and gas reserves.

(b) & (c) During the first four years (2002-06) of X Five Year Plan, ONGC have drilled 75 exploration wells in North-Eastern States i.e. 59 wells in Assam and 16 wells in Tripura. During the corresponding period, OIL have drilled 38 exploratory wells in Assam.

In 2006-07, ONGC and OIL plan to drill 21 and 20 exploratory wells in the North-Eastern region respectively.

(d) The performance of ONGC and OIL in comparison to other Private/E&P companies with regard to reserves accretion through new hydrocarbons discoveries during the last 5 years (2000-05) is as under: Company In-place reserves accretion through new discoveries (MMTOE) in 2000-05

ONGC	173.760
OIL	34.00
Private/JV Companies	504.920

Reserves accretion for 2005-06 is under evaluation by ONGC, OIL and Private/JV companies.

(e) & (f) Government of India is not restricting any company for participation in hydrocarbon exploration. Under the sixth round of NELP, Government of India have offered 55 exploration blocks in onland, offshore and deepwater areas. 7 exploration blocks are falling in the States of Assam and Mizoram. These exploration blocks are to be awarded through international competitive bidding, wherein, bidding terms are uniformally applicable for public sector, private and foreign companies.